

'THE RUDDER



Sailings of the U.S. Navy Medical Service Corps



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1947

77th

2024

Aug 2024

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Cover Photo: This month's Specialty in the Spotlight is Health Facility Planning and Project Officer (HFPPO) ! See more on pages 10 and 11.

FROM THE MSC DIRECTOR

Esteemed Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to present to you the August 2024 edition of "The Rudder," and it is a special birthday edition as we celebrated the 77th birthday of the Medical Service Corps on 4 August 2024. In 77 years, the Medical Service Corps has grown from 251 plankowners to more than 3,000 Active Duty and Reserve officers representing 31 unique subspecialties that represent Health Care Administrators, Health Care Clinicians, and Health Care Scientists. For nearly 77 years, Medical Service Corps



officers have worn a golden spread oak leaf with a twig attached to its stem. This symbol — known by the sobriquet, "the Twig" — signifies the support the Medical Service Corps provides to Navy Medicine. Beginning on page 16, you will see all the wonderful MSC birthday celebrations from around the world honoring our heritage and highlighting one of our Navy's oldest traditions, which is the cutting of the cake by the oldest and youngest officers within the command.

Health Facility Planning and Project Officer (HFPPO) is our Specialty in the Spotlight for this issue. This subspecialty has a unique past in that HFPPOs were originally piloted in 1964 as medical construction liaison officers (MCLO) subspecialty and were not included in the healthcare administrator subspecialty until 1970. My deepest gratitude to LCDR Brendan Good, HFPPO Specialty Leader, and to LCDR Jonathan Gomez-Rivera, HFPPO Assistant Specialty Leader, for their servant leadership in guiding members a group of professionals with unparalleled expertise. There are currently 10 HFPPO in our MSC inventory, and as the saying goes befittingly – "Never have so few done so much for so many." Please turn to pages 10 and 11 to read more about HFPPO.

This month's Career Development Board (CDB) section highlights Entomology and Physical Therapy as the top performers in terms of CDB completion rate and tracking. Please turn to pages 8 and 9 to learn about the notable practices that these two specialties have em-

(continued on next page)

played to reach new levels of engagement.

As always be sure to check out the MSCs in Focus section starting on page 30 to see how our colleagues are excelling in the air, on land, and at sea.

I would also like to mention that I recently transferred from Naval Medical Forces Atlantic and Defense Health Network Atlantic to join the Defense Health Agency leadership team as the Assistant Director for Health Care Administration. The photo below was taken in July when I relinquished command to RDML Kevin Brown with RADM Darin Via, our Navy Surgeon General and Chief, BUMED, presiding over the ceremony.

In closing, I feel privileged and proud to be the Director of the Medical Service Corps, but more importantly to be a member of this special Corps. To everyone who has every worn that MSC Twig past and present — thank you for your service and your support. And Happy 77th Birthday!

Please enjoy the rest of the summer with your family, friends, and colleagues. Onward. Forward.

*With respect
and admiration! M. Case*

M. CASE

Rear Admiral, Medical Service Corps

United States Navy

Director, Medical Service Corps



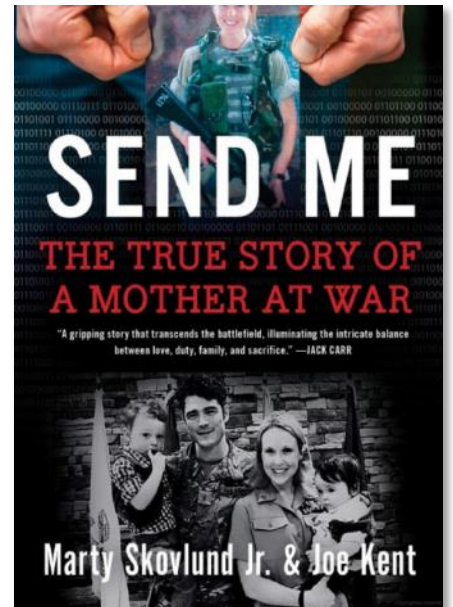
Portsmouth, Va. Pictured above: RDML Matthew Case (left), the former commander, Naval Medical Forces Atlantic (NMFL), salutes RADM Darin K. Via (center), Navy Surgeon General, as he is relieved of duty by RDML Kevin Brown, commander, NMFL, during a change of command ceremony held on board Hampton Roads — Portsmouth Annex on 12 July 2024. RDML Case served two years as the director of Defense Health Network Atlantic and the commander of NMFL. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Levi Decker)

THE CORPS CHIEF'S BOOK CLUB

"Send Me: The True Story of a Mother at War" by Marty Skoylund Jr & Joe Kent

Recommended by: Julius L. Evans, Public Affairs Officer, Naval Medical Readiness Logistics Command, Williamsburg, Va.

Summary: There are so many familiar themes in this book and practically every Sailor, enlisted, and officer, will appreciate Senior Chief Shannon Kent's service and accolades. We have all served with great Sailors, but there are a few who simply rise above everyone else. They are at the top of their game, in everything they do professionally and in their off-duty life. This is the story of one of those Sailors. It was interesting that Navy Medicine and Walter Reed are both specified in the story. Those of us who served around or during the time she was on duty will have familiarity with the places she served, the ideas behind the connections she made, and the celebrated life she lived. "Send Me" is the story of a special forces support person who was so endeared by the troops she helped hunt ISIS extreme terrorists, that her reputation preceded her in hot zones well before she arrived in that particular theater. Her ability to locate and develop assets is similar to the Brad Pitt and Robert Redford movie, "Spy Game." Her language skills were so refined that native speakers could not believe she wasn't a native herself. This gave her the unique ability to develop assets, to gain confidence with village leaders, and to endear her to everyone who relied on her ability to gather actionable intelligence. So often, the word hero is tagged to someone who was at the wrong place at the wrong time. That is not a dig. But from reading this book, I can say with confidence that Senior Chief Shannon Kent was indeed a true American hero. Read this book.



MSC Book Club

WHO: All MSCs

WHAT: An opportunity to share a book that you believe other MSCs may benefit from reading.

WHEN: Accepted on a rolling basis.

HOW: Email your information, a summary of the book in 250 words or less, and a photo of the book.

SUBMISSIONS: Email LT Lowitzer at Grace.E.Lowitzer.mil@health.mil.

FROM THE DETAILERS

UPDATES FROM THE MSC DETAILERS

Record Reviews

- Any officer who was not selected for O4 or O5 this year should schedule a record review with their detailers at least two weeks after the results.
- Career development boards (CDB) are required for all O1 to O4 Medical Service Corps officers within six months of checking into a new duty station.

Orders Update

- As of August 2024, orders will not be released until approximately four to six months out. The process slows down when waivers or co-location is required. All order modifications go through a question-and-answer process to include waivers.

Permanent Change of Station (PCS) Update

- Contact your detailer 12 months out from your PRD to begin the process to PCS.
- Pets do not go on orders. The Service member will be reimbursed when they finalize their travel at their gaining command.
- Dependents are not required to be on the Service Members orders for OCONUS to CONUS PCS moves.
- Dependent visas are taking between 60 to 90 days to process.
- If the Service member is having problems during their PCS, they should call their detailer as soon as possible. Detailers may find a solution or they can use the placement office to reach out to the gaining command.

Records Management

- All MSC officers should check their OSR/ODC/PSR monthly to ensure accuracy. Do not wait until a promotion board to ensure your record to correct. Additionally, it is recommended to check your PSR for continuity of correct dates.
- Detailers can add AQDs. Contact the detailers with the specific AQD that needs to be added along with proof. Validation is required from Mr. Clinton Garret for Executive Medicine AQDs (67A, B, G, H).
- [My Navy HR](#) and FAQs can direct officers to the resources for [My Navy Career Center](#), but when in doubt, contact your detailer.

Resources

- A list of detailers and their contact information can be found on the [MSC MilSuite Page](#).
- Records management information can be found on My Navy HR under the [Records Support Division \(PERS-31\)](#)



OPERATIONAL READINESS EVALUATION

By: LCDR Ester Do, Associate DFA, EMF Camp Pendleton (RC)

EMF Camp Pendleton (RC) successfully completed Operational Readiness Evaluation at the Naval Expeditionary Medical Training Institute (NEMTI) in Camp Pendleton, Calif., in June 2024. Of the 137 Sailors who participated, 10 were MSC officers.



Camp Pendleton, Calif. Pictured above (L-R): CDR Darren Kasai, HCA; LCDR Benjamin Olmedo, PA; LCDR Loretta McPheeters, PA; LCDR Ester Do, Medical Technology; LCDR James Nash, Pharmacy; LCDR Sandra Baxter, HCA; Abbie Merkl, HCA; LCDR Danielle Sterner, Dietetics; LT Stephen Bishop, Medical Technology; and LCDR John Leahy, Pharmacy.

ARE YOU CONSIDERING LEAVING ACTIVE DUTY?

— — — — —

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED JOINING THE NAVY RESERVE?

OUR MSC RESERVE COMMUNITY INCLUDES OVER 350 MSCS ACROSS 18 OF THE 31 MSC SPECIALTIES WHO SEAMLESSLY INTEGRATE ACROSS THE NAVY ENTERPRISE. IMMEDIATE BENEFITS INCLUDE; A PAYCHECK, LIFE INSURANCE, MAINTAINING YOUR SECURITY CLEARANCE, COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES, AND ADDING TO YOUR RETIREMENT POINTS. AS A RESERVIST YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR TRICARE INSURANCE AND DENTAL INSURANCE FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AS WELL AS CONTINUED ENROLLMENT IN THE THRIFT SAVING PLAN AND A GI BILL TRANSFER. YOU MAY ALSO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A RETENTION OR INCENTIVE BONUS. MOST IMPORTANTLY YOU WILL MAINTAIN VALUABLE SKILLS AND BE ELIGIBLE FOR PROMOTION AND CRITICAL LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES. WHY NOT CONTINUE TO BE PART OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST NAVY AND THE NAVY'S GREATEST CORPS? FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS RESERVE AFFAIRS OFFICER, CAPT KENNETH MCANDREWS AT KENNETH.L.MCANDREWS2.MIL@HEALTH.MIL.



ATTENTION!

Officer of the Year
nomination packages
are due to your Specialty
Leader on 10 Oct 2024

Please reference tasker
DON-240716-XJTD or speak with
your local command for more
information

CDB: GET THE GOUGE

CDB COMPLETION RATE AND TRACKING: TOP PERFORMERS

By : LT Kelson A. Mosier, HCA, Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit SEVEN, Rota, Spain

Over the past few years, you may have noticed an increased emphasis on Career Development Boards (CDBs) for all members of the Medical Service Corps (MSC) at all stages of the MSC career path. The Corps Chief's office has prioritized the professional development of our junior officers and challenged leaders at every level from Specialty Leaders (SL) to executive suites at local commands to invest in the future of our Corps. This growth of dedicated MSC mentorship through the CDB process is and will continue to be critical to individual career success as well as the success of Navy Medicine.

This month we are highlighting two MSC communities — Entomology (Ento) and Physical Therapy (PT) — as the top performers in CDB completion rate and tracking. Here are their notable practices that have led to a high level of CDB program engagement by their community members and community leadership:

1. Specialty Leader engagement and communication. Regular communication from the SL team makes a difference in engagement. When the SL specifically communicates the MSC CDB program as a priority to the members of the community, increased participation in CDBs follows. This communication has also included, when necessary, direct engagement with individual members of the community, providing tailored mentorship, career waypoint advice, and other feedback. It has also included negative feedback directly to members who are late on CDB program participation or reject the opportunity for a CDB.

2. Senior Leaders and Chain of Command engagement. When formal CDB program mentorship is prioritized throughout the specialty community, it is a signal for driving cultural change. Senior leaders' professional investment in the CDB process encourages all levels of the organization to be part of the mentorship culture and professionalism. A difference-maker in the Ento community has been senior officers' personal testimonials of how the MSC CDB process has been beneficial in their career development.

3. CDB Coordinator direct engagement. There are CDB Coordinators embedded in every subspecialty, working with the SLs and their respective community, as well as Coordinators at many of the individual commands and units across Navy Medicine. At both lev-

els, these key performers are a critical link between the SLs, the members of the community, and the local chain of command. They communicate directly with the individual members of the specialty community, setting up and tracking CDBs, and providing feedback to individuals, the local chain of command, and the SLs. They organize warm hand-off communication from one CDB Coordinator to another, ensuring CDB progress and tracking for individual community members is carried over successfully from one unit to the next. Overall, they provide a critical motivational spark to all stakeholders to keep all parties engaged in the CDB process. Both the Ento and PT communities' CDB Coordinators have stressed that their success as Coordinators is driven in part by monthly engagement emails, direct communication with community members, and a CDB tracking spreadsheet (which can be downloaded from NSIPS and tailored to add desired columns and fields) that helps keep them and the SL team organized and engaged.

4. What about MSC officers assigned outside the Navy Medicine mainstream? There are hundreds of members of the various MSC specialties assigned to operational, expeditionary, and sea duty billets, whose local chain of command may not have knowledge of the MSC community or the member's individual career path. The PT community has established a senior PT as a fleet point of contact for nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and special warfare billets to keep their members connected, sponsored, and participating in the CDB program.

MSC CDB guidance, templates, and resources can be found on the MSC CDB milBook page: <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/msc-career-development-board-program>. These resources are valuable for all stakeholders at all levels, from the SLs to local command suites to CDB Coordinators (community and command/unit level) and to all MSC officers.

Acknowledgement: The data in this article was made possible by a "tiger team" led by CAPT Austin Latour, NAOP, and assisted by LT Marco Pasco, EHO, and LT Taylor Lura, Entomology.

PHYSICAL THERAPY

ENTOMOLOGY



LEADING THE CHARGE IN CDB COMPLETIONS



Have a CDB story (success or opportunity for improvement) to share? Please email the CDB Program Manager, CDR Alexander Aldana at alexander.aldana.mil@health.mil or LT Kelson Mosier at kelson.a.mosier.mil@health.mil

Have any CDB questions? Please email CDB Program Managers at
LCDR Albert Lee: albert.j.lee23.mil@health.mil or LCDR James "SID" Salassi at james.salassi@usmc.mil

SPECIALTY SPOTLIGHT



FACT FILE

Health Facility Planning & Project Officer



- **HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION SUBSPECIALTY**
- **SIZE: 10 AC/O RC BILLETS**

- **SPECIALTY LEADER (SL)/ASST. SPECIALTY LEADERS (ASL):**

- LCDR Brendan Good (SL)
- LCDR Jonathan Gomez-Rivera (ASL)

- **CORE MISSION:**

- Navy Health Facility Planning & Project Officers (HFPPOs) provide unparalleled expertise in facility planning, programming, and execution of health facility platforms aimed to support military medicine's lines of effort around the world.

- **WHERE DO HFPPOs SERVE?**

- Defense Health Agency (6 AC)
- Project Detachments (Locations vary)
- Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (1 AC)
- Naval Medical Forces Atlantic (1 AC)
- Naval Medical Forces Pacific (1 AC)
- Naval Medical Forces Development Command (1 AC)

HISTORY

Health Facility Planning & Project Officer



- HFPPO began as the medical construction liaison officer (MCLO) subspecialty. The MCLO subspecialty was first piloted by BUMED in 1964 to provide "expert oversight for design, construction, and rehabilitation of naval medical treatment facilities."
- MCLOs became an official MSC healthcare administrator subspecialty in 1970. Their original roles comprised all aspects of healthcare delivery systems, including healthcare planning economics, health care facility design, medical equipment specification and procurement, construction interface, procurement and installation, facility transition planning, and managing programs for the development and renovation of naval healthcare facilities.
- Notable early HFPPOs include future Medical Service Corps Director Rear Adm. H. Edward Phillips.



ARTICLES OF INTEREST

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY CLIMATE ACTION 2030 TABLETOP EXERCISE III ACTION

By: CAPT Wil Morales, Director for Plans, Operations, and Policy BUMED-N3/N5, and LCDR Wisdom K. Henyo, Interim Director, Health Security Cooperation Office, BUMED-N52



San Juan, Puerto Rico. Pictured above (L-R): CDR Theron Hamilton, Biochemistry; CDR Matthew Hall, MC; CAPT Wil Morales, POMI; The Honorable Meredith Berger, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations, and Environment); LCDR Wisdom Henyo, Medical Logistics; LT Elaine Cotton, EHO; and Ms. Shannon White.

Personnel from the Navy and Marine Corps Force Health Protection Command, the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence, and the Operations, Plans, and Policy directorate of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED-N3/N5) had the opportunity to lead the Community Health and Safety portion of a Secretary of the Navy-sponsored Climate Change Tabletop Exercise (TTX) with Caribbean Partner Nations (PNs) in Puerto Rico from 24 to 27 June 2024. During this TTX, participants were presented with a realistic scenario built around multiple hazards and extreme weather events associated with climate change. Instead of delving into the specifics of

the disaster response, participants were directed to focus on identifying Collaboration Opportunities – programs, exchanges, and capabilities in which the U.S. and the Caribbean PNs can work together to build climate resilience, focusing on preparedness, ahead of a disaster.

The following opportunities were identified for engagement with PNs:

- **Expansion of Health Security Cooperation** efforts across the Caribbean such as Continuing Promise; Key Leader Engagements (KLEs); Subject Matter Expert Engagements (SMEE)

between PNs and the U.S.; Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSA) Sustainment partnerships; and other Global Health Engagement (GHEs) to include Mental Health Support before, during, and after Climate Change events.

- **Standardization and streamlining of support approval** to include medical credentialing for rapid support and partnering with Caribbean partners.
- **Nation-specific Cultural Sensitivity Training** in support of Health Security Cooperation Engagements and response planning/execution.
- **Emergency Response Stockpiles** – Distributing storage to mitigate risk/impact of climate change events to response capabilities/capacity.
- **Entomology Research and Development (R&D)** support in addition to expanding Force Health Protection (FHP) engagements across various Lines of Efforts in support of capacity/capability building.

To address the effects of the intersection of climate change and mental health, Navy Medicine can play a crucial role in addressing this under-recognized issue by strategically leveraging global health engagement actions such as:

- **Strengthening Local Health Systems:** By collaborating with Caribbean PNs on initiatives that address climate change's mental health impacts, Navy Medicine can help build more robust and responsive healthcare infrastructure.
- **Building Resilience in Vulnerable Populations:** Through targeted programs, Navy Medicine can equip communities most susceptible to climate-related stressors with the tools and resources necessary to cope with mental health challenges.

Another area of opportunity is looking into incorporate climate change considerations to enhance Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) defense capabilities and resilience. Climate change and associated trends are also expected to accelerate the emergence of zoonotic illnesses, including potential pandemic threats.



San Juan, Puerto Rico. Pictured above: Navy Medicine Team with Health and Human Services Representatives at the Climate Change Tabletop Exercise.



San Juan, Puerto Rico. Pictured above: Navy Medicine Team with Dominica and St. Kitts Partners at the Climate Change Tabletop Exercise.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

GLOBAL APPROACH TO BLOOD CAPABILITIES: INSIGHTS FROM THE BLOOD SUMMIT 2024

By: LCDR Akakpossa Ananou, Director, Joint Blood Program, USINDOPACOM Command Surgeon Office; Mrs. Miriam Hernandez, USINDOPACOM Global Health Analyst; LCDR Fae Ramirez, BUMED Blood Program Manager; and LCDR Wisdom Henyo, Interim Director, Health Security Cooperation Office, BUMED-N52

The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) held an inaugural Allies and Partners Blood Summit in Honolulu from 4-6 June 2024. More than 90 delegates from 20 organizations, representing seven Allied and partner nations, came together to focus on international security and blood capabilities in the medical field. The summit was a milestone event as it fostered synergy across the international community and addressed blood capability challenges.

During his opening remarks, CAPT Jeffrey Bitterman, the USINDOPACOM Surgeon, emphasized the urgent need for blood interoperability and standardization. He urged participants to challenge the status quo when it comes to blood products innovation, planning and distribution.

The summit was supported by three key objectives, each aimed at strengthening combined joint blood capabilities and preparedness.

The first objective was to develop a common lexicon and understanding. Reviewing modern security challenges allowed delegates to engage in constructive dialogue and knowledge exchanges that laid the groundwork for enhanced cohesion and coordination for future operations.

Delegates worked to identify obstacles

to interoperability, focusing on combined and joint blood capabilities, processes and procedures. By identifying barriers, delegates were able to pave the way for targeted interventions that enhance effective interoperability on a global level.

They also assessed existing tactics, techniques, procedures, and policies to evaluate the ability of national frameworks to support blood operations in response to complex events affecting multiple nations, allies, and partners. With continuously evolving threats and the need for adaptable contingencies, the summit fostered increased readiness and resilience.

"At the heart of the discussions lies a shared commitment to improving blood management, distribution and capacity in the INDOPACOM region," said LCDR Akakpossa Ananou, the USINDOPACOM Joint Blood Program Director.

During the summit, participants also had the opportunity to engage in a freeze-dried plasma demonstration and to witness live emergency whole-blood collection and transfusion exercises, conducted as part of the Valkyrie training program.

The inaugural USINDOPACOM Allies and Partners Blood Summit set a precedent for proactive engagement and cooperation in safeguarding the health of nations and communities. USINDOPACOM

is committed to enhancing stability in the Indo-Pacific region by promoting security cooperation, encouraging peaceful development, responding to contingencies and deterring aggression.



Honolulu, Hawaii. Pictured above: Delegates from 20 organizations representing seven allied and partner nations participate in the inaugural U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Allies and Partners Blood Summit that was held 4-6 June 2024.

77th MSC ANNIVERSARY

USNH MERCY (T-AH 19)



USNS Mercy (T-AH 19). Pictured above (L-R): CAPT Darla Dietrich, HCA; CDR Diana Tran-Yu, HCA; and LCDR Lucian Ionescu, EHO.

NMRTC Camp Lejeune



Camp Lejeune, N.C. Pictured above (L-R): CAPT Edward Owens, PA, and ENS Cassidy Pagett, Med Lab Science, cut the birthday cake as the oldest and youngest, respectively, Medical Service Corps officers at the command.

Camp Lejeune, N.C. Pictured above, Back row (L-R): LCDR Serge Shkuro, HCA; CDR Stephen Rogers, PA; LCDR Joe Cusack, Pharmacy; LT Ruby Jones, PT; CAPT Ed Owens, XO, EMF Kilo/PA; LT Mike Marchante, PA; CAPT Darryl Arfsten, CO, EMF Kilo/POMI; LT Kenneth Wee, PT; CDR Jason Wright, DFA/HCA; LCDR Joseph Mayr, Podiatry; ENS Cassidy Pagett, Med Lab Science; LCDR Nick Vaughan, POMI; and LTJG Jasheem McRae, OT. Front row (L-R): CDR Kathleen Smith, Pharmacy; LTJG Selina Arzu, Med Lab Science; LTJG Caitlin Phillips, Clinical Social Work; LCDR Tammy Nguyen, Med Lab Science; LT Dean Junio, Medical Logistics; LCDR Angela Myers, Podiatry; LCDR Carolan Whitney, PA; LCDR Denise Sahm, OT; and LCDR Jenny Frasco, Medical Logistics.



USNMRTC Yokosuka



Yokosuka, Japan. Pictured above, (L-R): CAPT Maria Barefield, OT; LT Sarah Miller, PT; LT Kevin Ahn, Clinical Social Work; LTJG Gary Clemons, HCA; LTJG Marco Mallari, HCA; LCDR Matthew Bush, PT; LT Corinna Dorais, Dietetics; LCDR Asa Schaefer, HCA; LT Jonathan Wilson, Audiology; LCDR Jason Jensen, OT; CAPT Richard Gilliard Jr., XO/HCA; LTJG Tyrell Tyler, IHO; CDR Christopher DeAngelis, Optometry; LCDR Victoria Selkirk, Dietetics; LCDR Daniel Plitnik, RHO; LT Geoffrey Horning, HCA; LTJG Robert Burke, IHO; LTJG Adam Heintz, HCA; LCDR Garret Hand, Pharmacy; CDR Dario Morgan, DFA/HCA; Mr. Paul Brochu; and LT Jasen Koerner, HCA.

USNMRTU Diego Garcia



Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory. Pictured above (L-R): LT Kathryn Lee, Clinical Social Work, and CDR Kenneth Jenkins, OIC/Pharmacy.

USNMRTU Sasebo



Sasebo, Japan. Pictured above (L-R): LT Joel Bartlett, Clinical Psychology; LT James Myatt, PT; LT Jerome Smith, Jr., IHO; LT Alyssa Rodriguez, EHO; LT Thuy Pham, Pharmacy; LT Kenneth J Matthews, OT; and LTJG Jaehoon Kim, EHO.

77th MSC ANNIVERSARY

USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN-73)



USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73). Pictured above (L-R): LT Thomas Phalen, PA; LT Jessie Calderon, IHO; RDML Matthew Case, Director, Medical Service Corps; LCDR Kamalan Selvarajah, MAO/HCA; LT Ben Valentin, Clinical Social Work; and LT Alexa Werner, PT.

NMRTC Twentynine Palms



Twentynine Palms, Calif. Pictured above, Front row (L-R): LCDR Elisa Menck, PT; LCDR Josh Blackburn, Pharmacy; LT Kat McMurtray, OT; LCDR Joann Vedova, Clinical Social Work; LTJG Elena De La Rosa, HCA; LCDR Cole Foss, Dietetics; and LTJG Belinda Larche, HCA. Back Row (L-R): LCDR Jason Lemma, HCA; LT Emmanuel Dadzie, HCA; LCDR Bill Lawson, HCA; and LT Mohammed Ismail, Med Lab Science.



USNMRTC Okinawa



Okinawa, Japan. Pictured above, Front row (L-R): LT Mariah Olvera, Clinical Psychology; LT Chatty Natelli, HCA; LT Mari Moffitt, Dietetics; LTJG Nathaniel Perry, HCA; CAPT Kathleen Cooperman, CO/HCA; LT Mayek Mavi, IHO; CDR Robert Nevins, DFA/HCA; LT Khadijah Preaster, HCA; LT Michael King, Med Lab Science; LCDR Matthew Forbes, POMI; and LT Esneider Herrera, Medical Logistics. Middle row (L-R): LCDR Hoang Tran, HIT/Optomtery; LT Sarah Chombeau, HCA; LTJG Emmanuel Boadu, HCA; LCDR Emily Debo-Trosclair, Clinical Social Work; CDR Michael Kerekgyarto, Optometry; LCDR Austin Haag, HCA; LCDR Claire Schofield, DRM/Financial Management; LTJG Ray Daniels, HCA; LT Mark Castello, Med Lab Science; and LCDR Anthony Ochiltree, Medical Logistics. Back row (L-R): LT Keegan Marcantel, OT; LT Nnamdi Emenogu, HCA; LT Christopher Ervin, HCA; LT Kyle Rodgers, Audiology; LT Anson Tam, Optometry; and LTJG Brandon Clarida, EHO.



Okinawa, Japan. Pictured above (R-L): CAPT Kathleen Cooperman, CO/HCA, and LTJG Nathaniel Perry, HCA, cut the MSC birthday cake as the most senior and the most junior, respectively, MSC officers at the command.

Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute



San Antonio, Texas. Pictured above (L-R): LT Nicole Willis, HCA; LT Kimberly Lavelle-Melin, HCA; LT Gwendolyn Brown-Giles, POMI; CDR Renardis Banks, Chief, DMRTI/HCA; LTJG Laretha Lewis, HCA; and LT Shane Prybylski, POMI.

77th MSC ANNIVERSARY

NMRTC Fort Belvoir



Fort Belvoir, Va. Pictured above (L-R): LT Cystal Ybarra, PT; LCDR Jillian Mears, PT; LCDR Tanesia Maul, Pharmacy; CAPT Melissa Lauby, XO/Clinical Psychology; LT Hunter Maxwell, Pharmacy; LCDR Brittany Haden, HCA; LT Rachel Ratliff, Pharmacy; and LT Ashraful Haque, HCA.

NSMRL/NUMI



Groton, Conn. Pictured above (L-R): LTJG Elvis Okwuoha, HCA, and CAPT Matthew Jamerson NSMRL CO/Biochemistry.

Groton, Conn. MSC officers from both Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory (NSMRL) and the Naval Undersea Medical Institute (NUMI) hold a joint event at NSMRL. Pictured above (L-R): CAPT Matthew Jamerson NSMRL CO/Biochemistry; CAPT Michael Arnold NUMI OIC/IHO; LT Dylan Holly, Research Physiology; LT Jacob Lockwood, IHO; LT Elvis Okwuoha, HCA; LTJG Christopher Beaumont, PA; LCDR Alistair Morris, Surgeon Commander, Royal Navy; and LT Galo Barrezueta, HCA.



Naval Health Research Command



Point Loma, Calif. Pictured above (L-R): LT Matthew Peterson, Physiology, and CAPT David Bacon, Microbiology, cut the MSC birthday cake.



Point Loma, Calif. Pictured above, Back row (L-R): LT Nathan Carnes, Research Psychology; LCDR Joseph Cantwell, Operations Research; LT Matthew Peterson, Physiology; CAPT David Bacon, Microbiology; LT Christa Lausted, Research Psychology; and CAPT Eric Welsh, NHRC CO/Biochemistry. Front row (L-R): LCDR Aditya Prasad, AEP; LCDR Daniel Crouch, EHO; CAPT Kellie McMullen, NHRC XO/Microbiology; and LT Alaide Cahill, NAOP.

Naval Medical Forces Pacific



San Diego, Calif. Naval Medical Forces Pacific's Medical Service Corps officers who are instrumental in providing oversight for 11 Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Commands (NMRTC), on the West Coast and Pacific Rim, gather in front of the NMFP headquarters for the 77th birthday of the U.S. Navy Medical Service Corps. Pictured below from left to right: LCDR(Ret) Jerry Brown, III, HFFPO; LCDR(Ret) Tracy Lewis, HCA; CAPT Kevin Bailey, POMI; LT MaryAnn Clover, POMI; LT Jamie Davis, Comptroller; CAPT(Ret) Mark Boman, HCA; LCDR Craig Wilcox, Patient Admin; CDR Ryan Jarmer, Health Information Technology; CAPT Kevin "Patrick" McMullen, Ops Research; CDR Eric Polonsky, HCA. Not pictured: CAPT Matthew Marcinkiewicz, Medical Logistics; CDR John Fritz Antoine, EHO; CDR Noah Apusen, POMI; LT Ray Martinez, POMI; LCDR(Ret) Liliana Flores, POMI.

77th MSC ANNIVERSARY

USNMRTC Guantanamo Bay



Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Pictured above, Front row (L-R): Mr. John Van Patten, retired MSC officer; LT Ramon Gavan, Manpower; LT Jyl Bean, EHO; LT Mellisha Bedminster, Clinical Psychology; and LT Wilfred Flores, Manpower. Back row (L-R): LCDR Douglas Chang, Pharmacy; LCDR Timothy Kraynack, PA; LT Yeong Kim, Medical Logistics; LCDR Jermaine Johnson, HIT; LCDR Jonathan Palmer, PA, and LCDR April Ash, Pharmacy.

Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Pictured above (L-R): The "wisest" and the youngest "Twigs" are LCDR Douglas Chang, Pharmacy, and LT Mellisha Bedminster, Clinical Psychology.

JTF GTMO



Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Individual augmentees deployed to Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay gather for an MSC birthday event. Pictured above (L-R): LT Mellisha Bedminster, Clinical Psychology; LT Yeong Kim, Medical Logistics; LCDR Jonathan Palmer, HCA; LT Mikaela Pitcan, Clinical Psychology; LCDR April Ash, Clinical Pharmacy; and LT Ryan Hollins, PT.



NMRTC Bremerton



Bremerton, Wash. Pictured above (L-R): CDR Brittany Jansen, PT; ENS April White, Med Lab Science; LTJG Mattea Simeoni Barger, RHO; LT Shane Garduno, HCA; LTJG Alexander Kameshige, RHO; LCDR. Ann Hummel, Clinical Psychology; CDR Michael Buyske, Optometry; CAPT Maria Edusada, Patient Admin; CAPT Karla Lepore, Naval Hospital Bremerton Director/NMRTC Bremerton Commanding Officer/HCA; LTJG Alejandro Pinzas, HCA; LTJG Paulo C. Guillen, HCA; LT Bryan Llantero, PT; LT Randy Le, Dietetics; LTJG David Tegtmeier, HIT; and LT Leonard Abadam, PA. (Official Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jennifer Benedict, NHB/NMRTC Bremerton public affairs).

Naval Medical Readiness Logistics Command



Frederick, Md. Pictured above (L-R): CAPT Christopher Barnes, CO/Medical Logistics, and LT Kionna Myles, Manpower.

77th MSC ANNIVERSARY

NMRTC Pensacola



Pensacola, Fla. Pictured above, Back row (L-R): CDR William Bennett, HCA; LT Alex Smith, HCA; LTJG Christopher Cowans, HCA; LT Terry Draper, EHO; LT Adam Johnson, EHO; LT Amia Stec, HCA; LT Joseph Kenny, PT; LTJG Aaron Hunt, HCA; and CDR Jason Jones, Audiology. Front row (L-R): LTJG Lorraine Pantojas, HCA; LCDR Michael Schaffer, HCA; LT Airielle Jenkins, HCA; LTJG Soomin Jimenez, HCA; CAPT Scott Coon, HCA; LTJG Olivia Hearn, EHO; LT Michael Runels, HCA; LTJG Jennifer Zamias, Pharmacy; and LCDR Steve Bell, HCA.

Pensacola, Fla. Pictured above (L-R): NMRTC Pensacola's Commanding Officer CAPT Scott Coon, HCA, and LTJG Aaron Hunt, HCA, respectively, cut a cake as the oldest and youngest MSC officers in attendance at the 77th MSC Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremony.

NMRTC Corpus Christi



Corpus Christi, Texas. Pictured above (L-R): LCDR (sel) Damico Hill, PA; LTJG Jonathan Jones, EHO; LT Abdullah Alamri, Optometry; LCDR Sobondo Wilson, DFA/Manpower; LTJG Daniel Slaughter, HCA; LTJG William Figueroa, HCA; and LCDR Jason Palmer, OIC NMRTU Kingsville/PA.



USNMRTC Guam



Agana Heights, Guam. Pictured above, Front Row (L-R): LT Stephanie Houser, PA; LTJG Mary Guico, HCA; LTJG Garcia Curtis, HCA; LT Braian Berghuis, HCA; CAPT Virginia Damin, XO/NC; and LCDR Pia Francisco, CIO/HCA. Back Row (L-R): CAPT Joel Schofer, CO/MC; LT Sherri Dumas, DRM/HCA; LT Jason Hannibal, PA; LCDR Kyle Banh-Hasenstein, PA; CDR Paul Mayo, DPH/Optometry; LT Omega McNeese-Haliburton, HCA; LT Okorafor Agbai, HCA; LT Brandon Mizuhara, HCA; and LCDR Maya Bell, ADBC/OT.

USS BOXER (LHD 4)

USS BOXER (LHD 4). Pictured right (L-R): LT Ryan Boudreau, PA; LT John-Ross McCarthy, POMI; LT Coral Johnson, POMI; and LT Lar-rissia Koulavongsa, POMI.



77th MSC ANNIVERSARY

USNMRTC Rota



Rota, Spain. Pictured above (L-R): CDR Frank Cornejo, PA; CDR Chad Yasuda, Microbiology; LCDR Greg Regts, Clinical Psychology; LT Mel Rolon, HCA; LT Kelson Mosier, HCA; CDR Aaron Eckard, DFA/HCA; LTJG Ryan Lascelle, HCA; CDR Ann MacDonald, Optometry; LT Bryan Dattilo, Environmental EHO; LCDR Jayme Larick, Clinical Social Work; LT Aidan Stubbs, Optometry; LT Taylor Benson, Audiology; LCDR Jason Galka, Pharmacy; LCDR Daniela Sloan, IHO; and LCDR Tom Hurtado, PA.

U.S. Marine Forces Command



Camp Smith, Hawaii. Pictured left (L-R): LCDR John Hallahan, RHO; LT Danielle Kerr, Pharmacy; LT Courtney Corcoran, Pharmacy; LCDR Shane Modglin, EHO; LT Marlon Villatoro, HCA; LCDR Brenda Sharpe, IHO; LCDR Erick Roman, Biochemistry; and LCDR Linda Sharpe, IHO. They participated in MARFORPAC's CBRN Equipment Prepositioning Assessment for the INDOPACOM AOR.



Officer Development School (ODS)



Newport, R.I. Pictured above: Students in Officer Development School, Class 24070 at Officer Training Command Newport celebrate the MSC's birthday during a cake cutting ceremony at Naval Station Newport.

NMRTC Quantico



Quantico, Va. Pictured left (L-R): LCDR Michael Evans, PA; LT Tyrone Thomas, HCA; LCDR Sarah Cosgrove, Comptroller/Financial Management, LT Shane Datugan, PA; CDR Christopher Paulett, Optometry; LT Alisa Agey, Med Lab Science; LT Marie Esther Congo, HCA; LCDR Curtis Hollie, DFA/DRM/Financial Management; and LT Jennifer Tsai, PA.

77th MSC ANNIVERSARY

NMRTC Cherry Point



Cherry Point, N.C. Pictured above (L-R): LT Alejandro Sandino, Comptroller/Financial Management; LTJG Junghyun Seo, HCA; LT Allison Frederick, PT; LT Bernardina Boggs, Pharmacy; LT Marienael Piekam, HCA; CDR Kathleen R. Dagher, DFA/POMI; LT Carla Foster, PA; LT Sara Leitner, PA; CDR Matthew Behl, Optometry; and LTJG Trevor Ramsey, HCA.

USNMRTC Naples



Naples, Italy. Pictured above (L-R): LTJG Beth Keenan, HCA; LCDR Travis Kelley, HCA; LCDR Julia Castronova, Optometry; LT Eyob Hawaz, HCA; LTJG Marvin Galapin, HCA; LT Michael Encoy, HCA; ENS Jerrilyn Yao, Med Lab Science; LCDR Ellis Banks, HCA; CAPT Robert Anderson, XO/HCA; LCDR Ronald Lorenzo, HCA; LT Willie Paranal, Clinical Social Work; LCDR Isaac Nyangena, DFA/HCA; LT Claire Gould, HCA; LCDR Seth Garcia, Audiology; LCDR Lonnie Meyers III, PA; CDR Byron Jordan, POMI; and LT Eddie Ruano, Med Lab Science.



Naples, Italy. The youngest and wisest Medical Service Corps officers cut the birthday cake on 5 August 2024 at USNMRTC Naples. Pictured above (L-R): CAPT Robert Anderson, XO/HCA, and ENS Jerrilyn Yao, Med Lab Science.



MSC Association of Hampton Roads



Portsmouth, Va. Pictured above: The MSC Association of Hampton Roads brought MSC Officers and MSC Inservice Procurement Program applicants together from around the greater Hampton Roads area to celebrate the 77th birthday with a brunch cruise celebration onboard the Spirit of Norfolk.

Navy and Marine Corps Force Health Protection Command



Portsmouth, Va. Pictured above (R-L): CAPT Charles Wilhite, deputy commander of Navy and Marine Corps Force Health Protection Command/IHO, and LTJG Kerri Day, EHO.

MSCs IN FOCUS

PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP 24-2



Port Vila, Vanuatu. Pictured above: Service members from the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army deployed in support of Pacific Partnership 24-2 as well as members of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force salute the American flag at the opening ceremony of the U.S. Embassy on 19 July 2024. Second from the left is CAPT Dean Wagner, Biochemistry, who is the Pacific Partnership 24-2 Medical Line of Effort Lead. He is with the office of the Pacific Fleet Surgeon. The United States established diplomatic relations with the Government of Vanuatu in 1986. Ambassador Ann Marie Yastishock is accredited to Vanuatu as the nonresident Ambassador and leads the diplomatic mission based in Port Vila. This opening further marks the growth of our relationship with Vanuatu and underlines the strength of our commitment to our bilateral relations, to the Ni-Vanuatu people, and to our partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region. (U.S. Navy photo by LTJG Winslow Blow/Released)



Port Vila, Vanuatu. Pictured above: LT Dylan Rich, Medical Administration Officer/HCA, serves a volleyball while playing with Pacific Partnership 24-2 personnel and teachers from the Kawenu Primary School, during a community outreach event as part of Pacific Partnership 24-2 on 18 July 2024. Pacific Partnership is the U. S. Navy's largest humanitarian and civic assistance mission with partner-nations, non-governmental organizations and other government agencies to execute a variety of humanitarian civic action missions across the Indo-Pacific. The annual mission is designed to strengthen relationships and to improve U.S. and partner-capacity to deliver humanitarian assistance and disaster-relief preparedness. (U.S. Navy photo by LTJG Winslow Blow/Released)

CONTINUING PROMISE 2024



Puerto Cortes, Honduras. Pictured above (R-L): LT Paul Bastianelli, Pharmacy, works with an interpreter and a Honduran medical professional during a joint medical brigade as part of Continuing Promise 2024. Continuing Promise 2024 marks the 14th mission to the region since 2007, which aims to foster goodwill, to strengthen existing partnerships, and to encourage the establishment of new partnerships among countries, non-government organizations, and international organizations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Jasmin L. Aquino)



Kingston, Jamaica. Pictured above: LT Paul Bastianelli, right, works with a member of the Jamaica Defense Force (JDF) in a pharmacy at the JDF Up Park Camp Medical Clinic as part of Continuing Promise 2024. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Jasmin L. Aquino)



Limón, Costa Rica. Pictured above: CDR Brent Collins, Optometry, adjusts a phoropter while conducting a vision assessment for a patient in a temporary medical facility during Continuing Promise 2024. Continuing Promise has long been and will continue to be a way for nations in the Americas to form stronger cultural and social bonds, leading to stronger regional partnerships. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Mark Logico)



Kingston, Jamaica. Pictured above: CDR Larry Schmiede, Optometry, conducts an eye vision assessment using a phoropter for a Jamaica Defense Force soldier at the Jamaica Defense Force's Up Park Camp Medical Clinic as part of Continuing Promise 2024. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Jasmin L. Aquino)

MSCs IN FOCUS

RIMPAC MEDICAL SYMPOSIUM POSTER PRESENTATIONS



Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Pictured above: LT Andrew Branch (in the background), an entomologist assigned to the Forward Deployable Preventive Medicine Unit Six (FDPMU 6), explains the unit's mission and capabilities during the 2024 Rim of the Pacific Medical Symposium that was held 27 June to 1 August 1 2024 at the Sharkey Theater on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. (Navy photo by Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman Marsha Rivera)



Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Pictured above: LT Alexandria Kesterson (left), a microbiologist stationed at Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit Six (NEPMU 6) presents on Forward Deployable Preventive Medicine Unit Six (FDPMU 6) laboratory capabilities during the 2024 Rim of the Pacific Medical Symposium that was held 27 June to 1 August 1 2024 at the Sharkey Theater on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Pictured above: LT Makenzy Jacobson (left), an environmental health officer assigned to the Forward Deployable Preventive Medicine Unit Six (FDPMU 6), presents on the environmental health capabilities of the Navy Environmental Health and Preventive Medicine Unit 6 (NEPMU-6) to a Brunei Navy medical officer during the 2024 Rim of the Pacific Medical Symposium.

U.S. AMBASSADOR TO PERU VISITS NAMRU SOUTH



Callao, Peru. Pictured above: Stephanie Syptak-Ramnath, U.S. Ambassador to Peru, and Rear Admiral Oscar Oliva Angulo, director of Peruvian Navy Health, pose with U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU) SOUTH staff members on 8 July 2024. Ms. Syptak-Ramnath and Rear Admiral Oliva visited NAMRU SOUTH to learn about the command's capabilities and ongoing research efforts between the U.S. and Peru. Part of the Navy Medicine Research & Development enterprise, NAMRU SOUTH conducts research on a wide range of infectious diseases of military and public health significance and supports Global Health Engagement through surveillance of those diseases, including dengue fever, malaria, diarrheal diseases and antimicrobial-resistant infections. (U.S. Navy Photo by Monica Barrera/Released)



Callao, Peru. Pictured above: William Graham (far left), head of U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU) SOUTH's Virology Surveillance Department and a microbiologist, describes recent accomplishments and ongoing research goals to Stephanie Syptak-Ramnath, U.S. Ambassador to Peru, and Rear Admiral Oscar Oliva Angulo, director of Peruvian Navy Health on 8 July 2024. (U.S. Navy Photo by Monica Barrera/Released)



Callao, Peru. Pictured above: LT Megan Schilling, Microbiology, and Dr. Claudia Guezala (both in the center) with U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU) SOUTH's Virology Research and Development Department describe recent accomplishments and ongoing research goals to Stephanie Syptak-Ramnath, U.S. Ambassador to Peru, and Rear Adm. Oscar Oliva Angulo, director of Peruvian Navy Health. (U.S. Navy Photo by Monica Barrera/Released)

MSCs IN FOCUS



Bethesda, Md. Advance Readiness Officer Course 24-70 was held 22 July to 2 August 2024 and was attended by several Medical Service Corps officers who augmented their leadership and management skills through the curriculum. Pictured above, Front row (L-R): LCDR Stefan Nwandu-Vincent, IHO; LCDR Nicholas Vaughan, POMI; LCDR Harun Lucas, HCA; LCDR Tanesia Maul, Pharmacy; LCDR Michael Kantar, Dietetics; and LCDR Wisdom Henyo, POMI. Second row (L-R): LCDR Jaime Zhunepluas, HIT; LCDR Kevin McManus, IHO; LCDR David Zart, POMI; LCDR Richard Thatcher, HCA; LCDR John McGinniss, PT; LCDR Christopher McLaughlin, EHO; and CDR Richard Delinsky, AROC Course Director/HCA.



San Antonio, Texas. Pictured left (L-R): LT Rachel Robeck, of Atlanta, a medical researcher and PA assigned to Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU) San Antonio's Combat Casualty Care and Operational Medicine Directorate, is awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal by Commanding Officer CAPT Jennifer Buechel at the Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Institute. LT Robeck earned the award for superior performance of duty as a clinical research scientist, faculty member, and research director of the Army-Baylor Emergency Medicine Doctoral Fellowship where she developed the first Tri-service emergency medicine course for physician assistants which greatly enhanced student's knowledge, skills and mission readiness. NAMRU San Antonio's mission is to conduct gap driven combat casualty care, craniofacial, and directed energy research to improve survival, operational readiness, and safety of Department of Defense (DoD) personnel engaged in routine and expeditionary operations. It is one of the leading research and development laboratories for the U.S. Navy under the DoD and is one of eight subordinate research commands in the global network of laboratories operating under the Naval Medical Research Command in Silver Spring, Md. (U.S. Navy photo by Burrell Parmer, NAMRU San Antonio Public Affairs/Released)



Stevensville, Md. Industrial Hygiene Officers in the Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences Masters of Science in Public Health program at Uniformed Services University, along with Occupational and Environmental Medical residents, tour the Paul Reed Smith Guitars manufacturing facility in Maryland as part of their Industrial Hygiene Field Studies course. Students met the founder, Paul Reed Smith (center) and were able to use the opportunity to learn how occupational exposures are assessed and controlled in non-military environments. Pictured left, Back row (L-R): Dr. Alex Stubner; LT Matthew Horch, Medical Officer; CPT Anthony Gulotta, Medical Officer; Mr. Paul Reed Smith; LT Derrick Haynes, IHO; and LCDR Benjamin Hall, Medical Officer. Front row (L-R): LCDR Robin Schubauer, IHO; LT David Jimenez, IHO; and LT Yana Villanueva, IHO.

Quang Tri Province, Vietnam. Pictured right (L-R): LTJG Christopher Knipe from NMRTC New England and LCDR Christopher Conboy from Expeditionary Medical Facility 150 Bravo, both PAs, participate in the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) recovery operations in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam during the months of May and June 2024. Communication and relationships between Vietnamese officials, DPAA's Vietnam Detachment, and recovery team leadership serve to propel progress in achieving the fullest possible accountability of our service members during the respective DPAA 24-3VN recovery missions. The partnership and dedication shared between the United States and Vietnam makes it possible to recover service members lost in past conflicts. There are currently 1,234 U.S. personnel unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War in this region.



MSCs IN FOCUS



Albany, Ga. Pictured above: LTJG Sean Hufford, a physician assistant at Naval Branch Health Clinic Albany, listens to a patient's heart. LTJG Hufford serves as the sole occupational health provider in the Occupational Health Clinic that was named Best of the Best by the Joint Patient Experience Survey (JOES) for fiscal year 2024, 2nd Quarter. (U.S. Navy photo by Deidre Smith)



Yokosuka, Japan. Pictured above: LT Jonathan R. Wilson, an audiologist at USNMRTC Yokosuka, conducts a simulated hearing exam. LT Wilson, a Simi Valley, Calif. native, received the Other Process Improvement (OPI) category award from the Naval Medical Forces Pacific Continuous Process Improvement (CPI) project competition by enhancing the U.S. 7th Fleet Ship Repair Facility's Hearing Conservation Program (HCP). By implementing clear guidance, adding HCP items to the command check-in process, developing an HCP tracker, and creating an internal SOP, he and his team raised compliance rates from 17 percent to 97 percent. (U.S. Navy photo by Daniel Taylor/USNMRTC Yokosuka Public Affairs)



Jacksonville, Fla. Pictured left (R-L): CDR Michael Kavanaugh relieves CDR Ian Sutherland of command of the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence (NECE) at the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence's Change of Charge Ceremony on 21 June 2024. Both MSC officers are entomologists. To commemorate the U.S. Navy's 248th year of existence, CDR Sutherland had 248 *Aedes Aegypti* mosquitoes released inside of a seven-foot cube to join him during his speech. To NECE's knowledge, this is the first time ever mosquitoes have been utilized in a change of charge ceremony. (Courtesy photo by Mass Communicator Specialist 2nd Class Matthew Riggs)



Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Pictured above (L-R): CAPT Scott Dunn, officer in charge of Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit Six (NEPMU-6) and IHO, presents a Letter of Appreciation to Lt. Col. (Dr.) Goh Jit Khong, a Service member with the Singapore Armed Forces Force Health Group, following a knowledge exchange between the two units during RIMPAC 2024 on 10 July 2024 on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The Force Health Group sought guidance on the U.S. Navy's expeditionary medical platforms, specifically the Forward Deployable Preventive Medicine Unit (FDPMU), in the hopes to establish a similar platform in their reserve component of the armed forces. (Navy photo by Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman Marsha Rivera)



Bethesda, Md. The MSC Career Planner meets with newly commissioned Navy Entomologists during Navy Medicine 101 at Navy Medical Leader and Professional Development Command. Pictured above (L-R): LTJG William Smith, Entomology; CAPT Kathryn Barnes, Career Planner and Entomology; LT Nia Keyes-Scott, Entomology; and LTJG Cecilia Foley, Entomology.



Portsmouth, Va. Pictured left (L-R): CDR Amy McArthur, the regional hearing conservation program manager as well as an audiologist assigned to Naval Medical Forces Atlantic (NMFL), presents a gift from NMFL's Wardroom to RDML Matthew Case, commander, NMFL, during a change of command ceremony held on board Hampton Roads - Portsmouth Annex on 12 July 2024. RDML Case was relieved by RDML Kevin Brown after serving two years as the director of Defense Health Network - Atlantic, chief, Medical Service Corps, and commander, Naval Medical Forces Atlantic. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Levi Decker)

MSCs IN FOCUS



Joint Base San Antonio, Texas. Pictured left: LT Anca Selariu (right), a microbiologist assigned to Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU) San Antonio, speaks with students participating in the Office of Naval Research's (ONR) Naval Research Enterprise Internship Program (NREIP) at the Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Institute on 23 July 2024. LT Selariu was part of a four-person crew that took part in the NASA Crew Health and Performance Exploration Analog's (CHAPEA) first mission. The CHAPEA missions, simulated expeditions to the surface of Mars, aim to collect critical data which will inform future human expeditions to space. LT Selariu, a native of Romania, brought expertise in vaccines, prion transmission, gene therapy and infectious disease research to the CHAPEA mission. NREIP places college and university students in the Department of the Navy laboratories where they take part in real Naval research for 10 weeks during the summer. (U.S. Navy photo by Burrell Parmer, NAMRU San Antonio Public Affairs/Released)

San Diego, Ca. Pictured right: Among family and colleagues, Naval Health Research Center's Director for Administration (DFA), CDR Hunter Coates (right), HIT, recites the Oath of Office on 8 July 2024. CDR Coates has been the DFA at the Naval Health Research Center since 2023. His leadership ability was quickly identified and put to work being dual hatted as the interim Director of Research Services, leading two directorates at the command, and serves as the Health Information Technology Specialty Leader mentoring and coaching chief informatics officers across the Navy Medicine enterprise. (U.S. Navy photo by Danielle Cazarez/released)



Bethesda, Md. Pictured left: CAPT Juan Rosario, HCA, recently reported onboard as the new chief of staff at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. "I am deeply honored and excited to join WRNMMC as the new chief of staff," CAPT Rosario said. "This institution has a long-standing reputation for excellence in military medicine, and I am thrilled to be a part of such a distinguished team. I've also witnessed firsthand the dedication and commitment of the WRNMMC staff while my daughter received treatment for cancer in 2018. The caring, compassion, and unwavering devotion to my daughter's health left an indelible mark on our family and we are forever grateful. Serving as the new chief of staff gives me the opportunity to say thank you and to give back to the team that was instrumental in my daughter's healing and being cancer free today."



Portsmouth, Va. Pictured above: CAPT Marion Gregg (center), commander of Navy and Marine Corps Force Health Protection Command (NMCFHPC), director of Defense Centers for Public Health – Portsmouth (DCPH-P), and CAPT Charles Wilhite (right), deputy commander of NMCFHPC and IHO, meet with Senator Mark Warner's Military Outreach Coordinator and liaison, Mr. Gene Garland, on 9 July 2024. During the visit, leadership provided Mr. Garland with an overview of the command's mission and capabilities as well as the strategic goals of Navy Medicine. (U.S. Navy photo by Desmond Martin)



Portsmouth, Va. Pictured above: Industrial Hygienist, CAPT Charles Wilhite, deputy commander the of Navy and Marine Corps Force Health Protection Command (NMCFHPC) addresses the audience during the Navy's Blast Over Pressure (BOP) Summit on 15 July 2024 at the River's Edge Community Center aboard Naval Medical Center Portsmouth. The timing of the summit coincides with increased public attention on the impacts of blast overpressure, the pressure caused by a shock wave over and above normal atmospheric pressure. The summit aims to highlight the proactive measures being taken by the Navy to address concerns related to blast overpressure. (Navy photo by Desmond Martin)



Portsmouth, Va. Pictured above: Ms. Jena Brunson, an industrial hygienist with the Navy and Marine Corps Force Health Protection Command (NMCFHPC) addresses the audience during a Blast Over Pressure (BOP) meeting on 15 July 2024 at the River's Edge Community Center aboard Naval Medical Center Portsmouth. Ms. Brunson is a part of the Navy's Acquisition Technical Support Division (ATS), which serves as the subject matter experts and cognizant technical authority regarding the industrial hygiene aspects of blast overpressure hazard through systems lifecycle for the DON. (Navy photo by Desmond Martin)

MSCs IN FOCUS



Okinawa, Japan. Pictured above and left: LCDR Eric Harasimowitz, right, the outgoing commanding officer of 3rd Medical Logistics Company (3rd MedLog Co), 3rd Supply Battalion (3rd Supply Bn), 3rd Sustainment Group (Experimental) (3rd SGX), 3rd Marine Logistics Group (3rd MLG), passes the company guidon to LCDR. Anthony Ochiltree, left, the incoming commanding officer of 3rd MedLog Co, 3rd Supply Bn, 3rd SGX, 3rd MLG, during a change of command ceremony on Camp Kinser, Okinawa, Japan held on 2 July 2024. During the ceremony, LCDR Harasimowitz relinquished command to LCDR Ochiltree. Both MSC officers are medical logisticians.



Bremerton, Wash. Pictured above: CAPT Patrick Fitzpatrick (left) is relieved by CAPT Karla M. Lepore (right), HCA) during NMRTC Bremerton's change of command ceremony held on 15 August 2024. RDML Guido Valdes (center), who is the Commander, Naval Medical Forces Pacific; Director, Defense Health Network Pacific Rim; and the Director of the Navy Medical Corps served as guest speaker for the event. "His leadership, judgment and devotion to duty have been an inspiration to his team, along with the continued excellence in innovative quality care to their warfighters and their families," said RDML Valdes. CAPT Fitzpatrick, a Navy Nurse Corps officer from Missoula, Mont., served as NMRTC Bremerton commanding officer and Naval Hospital Bremerton director, leading a team of approximately 930 Navy Medicine and Defense Health Agency personnel, from July 2021 to August 2024. Upon completion of the traditional change of command, Fitzpatrick formally retired after 32 years of active duty service. CAPT Lepore, from Phoenix, Ariz., assumes command from her recent role of Deputy Director, Navy Medical Service Corps at Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Falls Church, Va. (Official Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jennifer Benedict, NHB/NMRTC Bremerton public affairs)



Bethesda, Md. Pictured above: The Defense Health Agency (DHA) hosts a retirement ceremony in honor of CAPT Eskinder "Alex" Dagnachew, Medical Logistics, on 16 August 2024. In celebrating CAPT Dagnachew, Director, DHA Medical Logistics/J-4, for his 40 years of honorable service, Brigadier General Katherine Simonson, Deputy Commanding General, Medical for the United States Army Recruiting Command served as the Presiding Officer; CAPT Steve Aboona, Director for Installation and Logistics, BUMED-N4, served as the guest speaker; and CAPT Janine Espinal, Medical Logistics, served as the Master of Ceremonies. Lieutenant General Telita Crosland, Dr. Michael Malanoski, CMSgt Tanya Johnson, Ms. Kathy Berst, and CAPT Dagnachew's family were among the distinguished guests in attendance.



Seattle, Wash. Pictured left: Groton-based submarine clinical psychologist, LT Samantha Giangrande, received the prestigious Arthur W. Melton Early Achievement Award during an American Psychological Association (APA) conference held 8 August 2024. LT Giangrande, assigned to Submarine Readiness Squadron (SRS) 32, received the 12th annual award for "early achievements in military psychology" and was selected from a pool of 1,200 potential military mental health professionals. "Receiving this award exemplifies the work I have done throughout my career in the Navy," LT Giangrande said. "Much of the work I do as a psychologist focuses on how I can empower others to live a more fulfilling life and overcome personal and occupational challenges." The Arthur W. Melton Early Achievement Award, from the American Psychological Association (APA), Division 19 (Military Psychology), recognizes outstanding early career achievements in military psychology, normally within five to 10 years of entry into the field.

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The Medical Service Corps supports Navy Medicine's readiness and health benefits mission. It is the most diverse Officer Corps in Navy Medicine with 31 specialties organized under three major categories: Healthcare Administrators, Clinical Care Specialties, and Healthcare Scientists. There are over 3,000 active and reserve MSC Officers that serve at Military Treatment Facilities, on ships, with the Fleet Marine Force, with Seabee and special warfare units, in research centers and laboratories, in a myriad of staff positions with the Navy and Marine Corps, and with our sister services around the world.



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